

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSM-05
SIG-02 OMB-01 IGA-02 TRSE-00 MC-02 /097 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MCANDREW
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA - MR. TWINAM
PM/SAS - MR. KEENE

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
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USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 3

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
MARCH 3, 1977:

Q. FRED, WHEN WILL THE REVIEW OF THE HAWK SALE TO SAUDI
ARABIA BE COMPLETED?

A. I THINK YOU ARE REFERRING TO THE EXPORT LICENSE.

Q. THE EXPORT LICENSE.

A. YES. I DO NOT KNOW WHEN THAT IS GOING TO BE COMPLETED.
I DO KNOW THAT IT IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW, AS
MR. ERICSON AND MR. WINSHIP STATED YESTERDAY. I DO NOT
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HAVE AN ANTICIPATED TIME OF COMPLETION, BUT I AM GIVEN TO
BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE FAIRLY SOON. I CANNOT TELL YOU
WHEN, BUT --

Q. IS THAT KIND OF A UNIQUE CASE OR UNUSUAL CASE OR ARE
THERE OTHER REVIEWS GOING ON AT THE SAME TIME? WOULD
YOU PUT THAT IN SOME KIND OF PERSPECTIVE IN HAWK?

A. IT IS PART OF A GENERAL REVIEW, AS YOU KNOW. THE
PROPOSED SALE OF THE I HAWK AND THE REVIEW OF THIS EXPORT
LICENSE REQUIREMENT, WHICH WAS DISCUSSED YESTERDAY IN THE
CONTEXT OF SECTION 36(C) OF THE LAW -- IT IS PART OF THE
OVERALL REVIEW OF ALL OTHER SIGNIFICANT MILITARY SALES
WORLDWIDE, GRAHAM, AND HAS NOT BEEN SINGLED OUT REALLY AS
A SPECIAL CASE. IN THAT SENSE -- IT IS BEING JUDGED ON
THE CRITERIA THAT THE SECRETARY HAS LAID DOWN WITH REGARD
TO THE ARMS TRANSFER POLICY.

Q. FRED, ARE YOU SAYING THIS IS PART OF PRESIDENTIAL

REVIEW MEMORANDUM NO. 12, THE TRANSFER REVIEW?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THE NUMBER OF THE MEMORANDUM, BILL.
SORRY.

Q. BUT IT'S THE REVIEW OF ALL --

A. IT IS PART OF THE GENERAL POLICY WHICH THE SECRETARY
HAS SENT OUT -- THREE CRITERIA GOVERNING OUR DECISIONS
ON ALL ARMS TRANSFERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- AND THESE
ARE, AS YOU KNOW, THAT THE ARMS ARE NECESSARY TO MEET THE
LEGITIMATE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE REQUESTING
COUNTRY; THAT THE ARMS REQUESTED -- WOULD THEY UPSET THE
CRITICALLY IMPORTANT MILITARY BALANCE IN THE REGION; AND
HOW WILL THE SALE AFFECT THE MOVEMENT TOWARD A PEACE
SETTLEMENT?

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THESE ARE THE CRITERIA THAT ARE BEING APPLIED WITH REGARD
TO THIS SALE AND TO OTHER SALES.

WHAT NUMBER THE MEMORANDUM IS -- I AM AFRAID I CANNOT HELP
YOU ON THAT.

Q. IT'S THE REVIEW OF ALL ARMS TRANSFERS --

A. YES.

2. THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE HAD BEEN
PROVIDED TO THE SPOKESMAN PRIOR TO THE ABOVE NOON
BRIEFING:

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE HAWK SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA?

A. SEVERAL PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING THE SECRETARY'S
TESTIMONY YESTERDAY ON OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS,
AND THE CURRENT REVIEW UNDERWAY IN THE ADMINISTRATION ON
ARMS TRANSFERS, HAVE GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE
SAUDI ARABIAN REQUEST TO BUY OVER 500 IMPROVED HAWK
MISSILES FOR OVER ONE BILLION DOLLARS. I WANT TO MAKE
CLEAR THAT THAT PROPOSED SALE IS PART OF THE OVERALL
REVIEW OF ALL SIGNIFICANT MILITARY SALES WORLDWIDE, AND
HAS NOT BEEN SINGLED OUT AS A SPECIAL CASE.

Q. THEN YOU ARE BACKTRACKING ON WHAT MR. ERICSON SAID
YESTERDAY--THAT BECAUSE OF THIS DEAL'S VERY SPECIAL
NATURE, IT IS "BEING CAREFULLY REVIEWED," AND THAT WE
INTEND TO CONSULT WITH CONGRESS ABOUT IT?"

A. YOU SHOULD PUT MR. ERICSON'S STATEMENT IN ITS PROPER CONTEXT. HE AND MR. WINSHIP WERE EXPLAINING THE WORKING OF THE LAW (SECTION 36-C) ABOUT CERTAIN COMMERCIAL SALES BEING REPORTED TO CONGRESS PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE EXPORT LICENSE.

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AS THEY NOTED, THE RAYTHEON SALE OF THE HAWKS MISSILES WAS ANNOUNCED, THE CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED, AND THE EXPORT LICENSE REQUESTED. PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THAT LICENSE FOR CERTAIN COMMERCIAL SALES SUCH AS THESE, CONGRESS MUST BE NOTIFIED AND THAT NOTIFICATION MUST REST WITH CONGRESS FOR 30 DAYS.

THAT RAYTHEON REQUEST FOR AN EXPORT LICENSE IS WHAT IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW. AS MR. WINSHIP SAID YESTERDAY, THE CONTRACT AS SUCH IS NOT BEING REOPENED. WHAT WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO DO UNDER THE LAW IS TO REPORT TO CONGRESS BEFORE ISSUANCE OF AN EXPORT LICENSE ON THAT CONTRACT.

Q. WELL, ARE YOU OR AREN'T YOU GOING TO ISSUE THE EXPORT LICENSE?

A. THAT DECISION IS PART OF OUR OVERALL REVIEW OF ARMS TRANSFER POLICY. I DO NOT HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU AT THIS POINT.

AS YOU KNOW, THE SECRETARY HAS LAID OUT THE THREE CRITERIA WHICH GOVERN OUR DECISIONS ON ALL ARMS TRANSFERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST (EMPHASIZE ALL):

ARE THE ARMS NECESSARY TO MEET THE LEGITIMATE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE REQUESTING COUNTRY?

WILL THE ARMS REQUESTED UPSET THE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT MILITARY BALANCE IN THE REGION?

HOW WILL THE SALE AFFECT MOVEMENT TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT?

THESE CRITERIA WILL BE APPLIED.
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IF PRESSED USE FOLLOWING:

Q. CAN YOU COMMENT ON A REPORT THAT CONGRESSMAN ROSENTHALL HAS WRITTEN THE SECRETARY URGING THAT THE SALE OF 500 I-HAWK MISSILES TO SAUDI ARABIA BE HALTED OR AT LEAST HANDLED ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS?

A. THIS SALE, LIKE ALL OTHER SIGNIFICANT MILITARY SALES WORLDWIDE, IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

IF PRESSED ON BACKGROUND OF TRANSACTION:

A. THE CURRENT PHASE OF THE ONGOING CONTRACT TO SELL IMPROVED HAWK TO SAUDI ARABIA WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR AND THE CONGRESS WAS NOTIFIED.

THE IMPROVED HAWK IS A DEFENSIVE SYSTEM AND THE PRESENT CONTRACT IS WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING FROM A DETAILED 1974 DOD SURVEY OF SAUDI DEFENSE NEEDS.

IT IS A COMMERCIAL SALE AND ANOTHER SEGMENT OF A LONG-STANDING ARRANGEMENT IN WHICH RAYTHEON HAS PROVIDED HAWK EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR THE SAUDI AIR DEFENSE MODERNIZATION SINCE 1965.

CERTAIN COMPONENTS OF THE IMPROVED HAWK WILL BE HANDLED BY THE USG UNDER FMS PROCEDURES.

PERIODIC MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSES WILL BE REQUIRED FOR COMMERCIAL EXPORTS UNDER THIS PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE047759
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EOJONES:DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770074-0360
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770395/aaaadgcl.tel
Line Count: 256
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aef937be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3214694
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 3
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN
To: JIDDA TEL AVIV MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aef937be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009